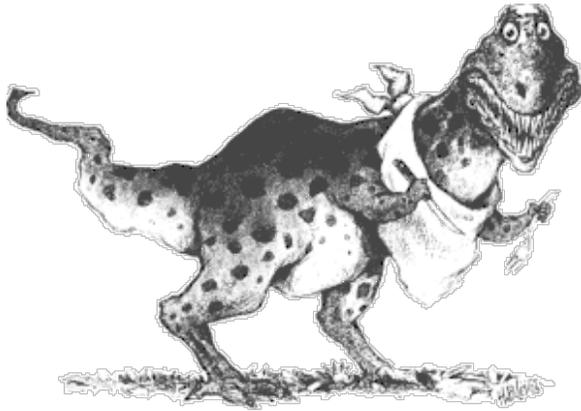


*what I like to call* **THE ACADEMIC MEATY SENTENCE**



Mastering this type of sentence will help you not only in this course, but in many of your other college courses. Remember, the Academic Meaty Sentence should be objective, which means it is not influenced by your feelings. In other words, your reader should not know your opinion when they read your sentence. This sentence introduces a text by providing the following 7 components:

1. **author's full name** (After that, you may refer to author by his/her **LAST NAME ONLY**. Note that in academic writing, it is not typically appropriate to refer to an author by his/her first name)
2. **title of text in proper MLA format**
3. **genre of text** (i.e., article, essay, poem, chapter, film, etc.)
4. **original source of publication in proper MLA format** (i.e., newspaper, book, website, etc.). This tells your reader about the audience for whom the source is writing.
5. **date of publication** (most of the time, year is sufficient)
6. **author's major claim (aka, thesis, main argument, key assertion)** of the text. Note that in academic writing, instructors will use different terms for what you probably know as the "thesis." In this course, I will usually use major claim or thesis, though I may slip in another term on occasion to keep you on your toes. This is the main point of the author's work and it should be arguable.
7. **a vivid and precise present tense verb** that represents what the author is doing (i.e., argues, speculates, condemns, insists, etc.) and place it in front of their major claim. These are also called voice markers. Most authors are not "talking about." The author warns, argues, insists, urges, endorses, asserts, elicits, invokes, refutes, ignites, etc. Choose the best verb!

Here is an example (my own template!) of an "Academic Meaty Sentence" that you may use:

In the article "Morality is a Mixed Bag," published in the *New York Times* in 2015, Maria Lopez argues that while many of us share moral values, we must realize that morality varies within cultures.

In the article (**genre**) "Morality is a Mixed Bag," (**title**) published in the *New York Times* (**original source of publication**) in 2015 (**date of publication**), Maria Lopez (**author's full name**) warns (**precise present tense verb**) that while many of us share moral values, we must realize that morality varies within cultures (**major claim**).

**MLA Review (just in case you missed it earlier):** Note how the article title is in "quotation marks"; in MLA all "smaller" titles that can be placed within a larger title, as an article is found in a newspaper, are placed in quotations marks. The larger title, such as a newspaper, is *italicized*.